

### 13.09–13.11 Compilation of Three Stories (Joshua 10–19)

✓ “Check” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows.

[. . .] indicates a remark to the teacher that should not be read aloud. It also indicates answers to questions.

**Visuals and Tools:** (See visuals for each lesson.)

- “Joshua” Flash-a-Cards by A Beka Book, Pensacola, FL, 1985, and/or pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Check “Activities” and “Handwork” in each lesson for additional needed materials.

**Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach:** Tips and terms are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *conquest*: the putting down of an enemy
- *Amorites*: ✓ probably tribes of giants
- *to hamstring*: “severing the Achilles tendon of the hind legs of captured horses, making them useless . . . as war horses” (<https://christiananswers.net/dictionary/hough.html>)
- *to devote to destruction*: at the command of God, to destroy totally a city and its inhabitants because of wickedness
- *generation*: all of the people born and living at about the same time (think parents, grandparents, *etc.*)
- *to cast lots*: tossing stones or other small objects into one’s lap or a container and then randomly choosing an object one at a time to determine the will of God
- *inheritance*: in Israel’s case, the territory in the Promised Land allotted to each family and was to be kept in the family perpetually

**Scripture:** (ESV) See individual lessons for Scripture

#### **Introduction/Review:**

Instead of asking God about whether they should make a treaty with a ragtag group of men who said they had come from a very far country, Joshua and Israel’s leaders went ahead and made a treaty promising not to attack their cities. Three days later, Israel discovered those men actually lived in the very next cities to be conquered. Israel could not attack these Gibeonites, though, because they had promised to save them alive.

#### **Story:**

##### *Five kings*

Other kings in the area heard about Jericho and Ai and the Gibeonite peace treaty. They feared greatly because Gibeon was a great, royal city—greater than Ai—and all its men were warriors! The king of Jerusalem [locate] sent for four other kings. These five kings agreed that they must do something to save their lives and said, “Let’s go up to fight against Gibeon because they have made peace with Israel.”

That’s exactly what they did: they gathered their forces, went up with all their armies, and encamped against Gibeon, ready to make war against it.

##### *Gibeonite plea*

Joshua and his people had gone back to camp in Gilgal; so that’s where men from Gibeon ✓ ran to alert Joshua. They said, “Come help us; all the kings of the Amorites who live in the mountains are gathered together against us.”

✓ I think I would have hesitated to help, thinking, “The Gibeonites deceived us; now they are in trouble. Let

them defend themselves. I may have promised not to attack them, but I didn't promise to protect them from other attackers." However, that reasoning would not have fulfilled my promise, for the Gibeonite covenant made these people subjects of Israel. Thus, they were entitled to Israel's protection [Gill's commentary].

### ***Israelite march***

The Lord said to Joshua, "Don't be afraid. I will deliver them all into your hand. Not a man of them shall stand." So Joshua and his army wasted no time in getting to Gibeon. They traveled uphill about nine miles all night. Israel surprised the enemy, and the Lord threw them into a panic so that they ran. Israel destroyed many enemies.

### ***Hailstones***

However, God was about to work as only He can. As the enemy armies sought to escape downhill away from Beth-Horon [locate] to Azekah, the Lord "threw down large stones from heaven on them." Those large stones (✓probably hailstones) killed more men than Israel's soldiers did. God was fighting this battle!

### ***Still sun***

Nevertheless, the battle was not totally won. Israel needed more time; so Joshua said/prayed, to the Lord in front of the soldiers of Israel, "Sun, stand still in Gibeon and the moon in Aijalon [locate]. The sun stood still about a whole day so that Israel could continue to conquer in daylight. Never before or after was there such a day when the Lord listened to a man to lengthen one day into two.

### ***Hidden kings***

While Israel's soldiers were chasing the enemy, those five enemy kings ran away and hid in a cave near Makkedah. Someone told Joshua, "The five kings have been found, hidden in the cave at Makkedah."

"Roll large stones against the mouth of the cave and set men by it to guard them," said Joshua, "but do not all stay there yourselves. Pursue your enemies; attack their rear guard. Do not let them enter their cities, for the Lord your God has given them into your hand."

When Joshua and Israel finished wiping out these enemies (a few, however, had escaped into fortified cities), then all the people returned safe to Joshua in the camp at Makkedah.

Joshua ordered, "Take the stones away from the cave and bring those five kings out to me."

When these orders were followed and the five kings stood before Joshua, Joshua said to the chiefs of the army, "Come near; put your feet on the necks of these kings." The officers did as they were told. Joshua said that this action was ✓a sign for them to believe that God would continue to subdue all the nations of Canaan. He encouraged the men by saying, "Do not be afraid or dismayed; be strong and courageous. This is what the Lord will do to all your enemies against whom you fight."

Joshua put the five kings to death. Later, when the sun was setting, Joshua commanded that the bodies be thrown into the same cave where they had hidden earlier. ✓Probably to keep wild beasts away, the men again set large stones against the mouth of the cave.

Conquest of Canaan had begun in earnest: a total of seven wicked kings (including kings of Jericho and Ai) and their city states had been destroyed by God and His people.

### ***Southern campaign***

The day after Joshua's long day, Israel went out to fight against the other cities in the south and swiftly won battles against them [locate on Map 1]. So in one campaign of ✓possibly less than one month, Israel had conquered the whole southern region. How were they able to do this in ✓just a few weeks? Because "the Lord God of Israel fought for Israel."

The Israelite army marched back to Camp Gilgal, where ✓they might rest a while with their families.

### ***Northern campaign***

Meanwhile, you can imagine the horrible dread being experienced by the rest of the city states—those farther north in Canaan. One king, who ruled Hazor and other cities, called together kings from a total of fourteen cities and regions for the purpose of warring against Israel. The Bible states, “All their hosts (were) like sand on the sea shore with very many horses and chariots.” This huge horde gathered, preparing to fight against Israel.

When Joshua heard about this collected coalition of military forces, the Lord said to him, “Do not be afraid. Tomorrow about this time I will deliver them to you all slain. You will hamstring their horses and burn their chariots.”

Joshua and Israel wasted no time. They made a surprise attack against the enemy where they were camped and put many of them to death. Again, it was the Lord who fought for Israel. The surviving enemy soldiers ran, and Israel struck them, chasing them far away and striking them down.

Joshua did just as the Lord had said: he hamstrung their horses and burned their chariots. They later burned the city of Hazor, but they did not burn the other cities. Scripture specifically mentions that fortified cities on hills remained, no doubt ✓for Israelite habitation. The spoils and cattle now belonged to Israel.

### ***Continued fighting***

The war to control all the land continued “a long time” and ✓may have lasted as much as seven years. The Bible states, “There was not a city that made peace with the people of Israel except the inhabitants of Gibeon. Israel took them all in battle.”

Israel destroyed even the giants, known as Anakim. These mighty men also ran away in fright, but many were destroyed. Only a few were left in the Philistine cities of Gaza, Gath, and Ashdod.

### ***Cause for conquest***

Some people have a hard time understanding why Israel would take all these cities by force from the people who already lived there. First in importance in answering this question is the fact that if God said to do it, and He did, we know that He does all things well. Anyone who studies Scripture can see this fact over and over. In fact, God was so involved with this takeover that we read, “It was the Lord’s doing to harden the hearts of the enemies that they should come against Israel in battle.” In other words, Israel, for the most part, did not initiate battles; rather, the nations came out against them, and Israel won those battles.

Another answer is often overlooked. These city states were so wicked that they needed to be destroyed so that the effects of their sin not be spread. God said these people should be devoted to destruction and should receive no mercy.

### ***Extent of conquest***

Thirty-one kings were destroyed. They are listed for us in Joshua 12. Although Joshua conquered most of the land, there were still regions that were not taken at this time. The tribes who would live in certain areas were responsible for defeating the enemies in those places.

### ***Tribes getting an inheritance***

How many tribes of Israel were there? [Twelve.] However, the tribe of Joseph was actually two tribes, Ephraim and Manasseh. That made a total of thirteen tribes of Israel.

One of these tribes did not get its own big chunk of land like the others. That tribe was Levi. This is what God said would happen way back in Genesis when Jacob/Israel himself blessed his sons. Simeon and Levi had slain all the men in the city of Shechem. Because of that, Jacob/Israel had said, “Cursed be their anger. . . I will divide them in Jacob and scatter them in Israel” (Genesis 49:5–7).

So Levi and Simeon were to be scattered. Simeon had a portion of land, but eventually became one with the

tribe of Judah. ✓We don't hear much about Simeon after this story. On the other hand, we do hear about Levi. This tribe was blessed with cities that were distributed throughout the land.

### ***Caleb's inheritance***

Do you remember Caleb? He was the spy who, with Joshua, more than forty years before had believed that God would give the land to Israel. Remember that the other ten spies had discouraged the people and had caused God to add forty years to their journey to the Promised Land.

Caleb was now, with Joshua, one of the two oldest citizens of Israel. He had waited all these forty-five years, had fought in the recent battles for the land, and now wanted to fight for his own personal land. He came to Joshua, saying, "Moses promised me an inheritance in the land I walked on because, as he said, I 'wholly followed the Lord my God.' I'm now eighty-five years old. I am as strong as I was forty-five years ago. Now give me this mountain, this one with giants and large, walled cities. If the Lord is with me, I'll be able to drive them out as the Lord said."

So, just as Moses and the Lord had promised, Joshua gave him the area and city known as Hebron [locate]. Its former name was Kirjath-Arba, named after its most important giant, Arba. Arba had been the father of Anak, whose name became the name for the giants—Anakim. Do you think Caleb was able to drive out the giants? Absolutely! Because Caleb "wholly followed the Lord his God," he defeated *three* giants!

It was at about this time that the whole congregation moved the tabernacle from Gilgal [locate] to Shiloh, where it remained a long time.

### ***Seven tribes' inheritance***

The tribe of Judah had received its land. Ephraim also had its land as did the western half of the tribe of Manasseh. Let's do the math:  $2\frac{1}{2}$  tribes on the east plus  $2\frac{1}{2}$  tribes on the west equals how many tribes? [Five.] How many total tribes were to get land? [Twelve.] How many more tribes needed to get their land? [ $12 - 5 = 7$ .] That's right—seven tribes.

Joshua sort of scolded those seven tribes who still hadn't conquered land for themselves. He said, "How long are you going to be slack in getting your land? Take three men from each of your seven tribes." How many is that? [ $3 \times 7 = 21$ .] Joshua continued, "You twenty-one men survey the remaining land. Write down descriptions of it, and bring them back to me. We will divide that land by casting lots."

That's what they did. They surveyed the land, divided it into seven parts, wrote down their findings in a book, and brought this information back to Joshua. Then, at the door of the tabernacle at Shiloh, Joshua drew lots for the land of these seven tribes.

Having received their land, those tribes were then responsible for conquering their territory. ✓Sadly, many of those people chose just to live with the enemy in their land rather than rid themselves of the enemy. What do you think might happen to those tribes who live with the enemy? Perhaps they will ignore God's warning against the gods of the enemy and be turned away from worshiping the one true God.

### ***Joshua's inheritance***

One more thing: When Joshua, Eleazar, and Israel's leaders had finished distributing the inheritances of the land, the people of Israel gave an inheritance to Joshua himself. The Lord commanded them to give him a city that he requested, which was Timnath-serah in the hill country of Ephraim, for he was from the tribe of Ephraim. Joshua rebuilt his city and lived there the rest of his life, which was twenty-five more years.

### **Lessons from This Lesson:**

- We see Jesus:

He is the victor over Satan. As the officers put their feet on the necks of the five kings, so Jesus conquered the devil, crushing his head (Genesis 3:15) as He was crucified.

“[W]hen Christ conquered our spiritual enemies upon the cross the miracle wrought on the sun was the reverse of this; it was then darkened as if it had gone down at noon, for Christ needed not the light of the sun to carry on his victories” (<https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/matthew-henry-complete/joshua/10.html>).

“[Joshua] would hereby give a type and figure of Christ’s victories over the powers of darkness, and believers’ victories through him. All the enemies of the Redeemer shall be made his footstool” (<https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/matthew-henry-complete/joshua/10.html>).

### Activities:

- Play dough: (Choose from among the three lessons.)
- Snack: (Choose from among the three lessons.)
- Learn Bible land geography. First, locate Israel on a globe or world map. Then, using the next to the last map found below, identify the following areas and features in Israel: Maritime or Coastal Plains; hill country; lowlands or Shephelah; Negev or Negeb or south country; Chinnereth or the Sea of Galilee; Jordan River; Salt or Dead Sea; and the Mediterranean or Great Sea.
- Review the names of the twelve tribes of Israel by singing “09.04–10.08 Jacob,” stanza 4, found on the “Songs” page at [teachingthebibleto kids.org](http://teachingthebibleto kids.org).
- Play “Find the Tribe.” The teacher will call out the name of a tribe. Drawing a student’s name by casting lots, the teacher will have the selected student find the tribe’s territory on the last map found below.
- Sing “I Want That Mountain” by Bill Harvey. Here is a link to sheet music for this song: <https://musescore.com/user/14273151/scores/3119291>. The teacher might wish to sing only the chorus.
- Review questions Lesson 13.09: (Game: Prepare 10 “hailstones” out of wadded paper. For each correct answer, a student may throw a “hailstone” within the limits set by the teacher.)
  1. How many kings decided to fight against Gibeon? [Five.]
  2. To whom did the men of Gibeon go for help? [To Joshua; Israel.]
  3. What did God say about helping Gibeon? [“Do not fear, for I have given the enemy into your hands. Not a man of them shall stand before you.”]
  4. When did the Israelites march to Gibeon? [All night.]
  5. How did God fight for Israel as the enemy was running away? [He threw down large stones from heaven on them.]
  6. What damage did the hailstones inflict on the enemy? [They killed more men than the soldiers did.]
  7. What did Joshua say/pray to the Lord to get more time? [“Sun and moon, stand still.”]
  8. Where did the five kings hide? [In a cave at Makkedah.]
  9. After the battle had ended, what did Joshua do to the kings? [Brought them out of the cave; had officers put feet on their necks; put them to death; hung them on trees; threw them back in the cave.]
  10. Why was Joshua’s long day like no other, before or after? [Because the sun stopped in the heaven and did not set for about a whole day; the Lord heeded the voice of a man.]
- Review questions Lesson 13.10: (Game: Print on cardstock and cut apart the small Roman helmets found below. Each student who answers a question correctly may place a helmet in a pocket chart.)
  1. Name one physical feature of Israel. [Maritime or Coastal Plains; hill country; lowlands or Shephelah; Negev or Negeb or south country; Chinnereth or the Sea of Galilee; Jordan River; Salt or Dead Sea; and the Mediterranean or Great Sea.]
  2. Where did Israel camp? [Gilgal.]
  3. What region of Israel next fought against Israel? [Northern.]
  4. How many northern soldiers gathered against Israel? Hint: “All their hosts (were) like . . .” [Sand on the sea shore with very many horses and chariots.]

5. Fill in the blank. A few \_\_\_\_\_ escaped into three cities of Philistia. [Anakim or giants.]
  6. What was the final number of kings destroyed both east and west of Jordan? [Thirty-one.]
- Review questions Lesson 13.11: (Game: Draw a mountain on a chalk board. Mark with five equidistant points on each mountain side if competing as teams. Otherwise mark ten equidistant points on one side of the mountain. Print on cardstock and cut out the two clipart mountain climbers found below. For team competition, move the climbers up the mountain on one side or the other with each correct answer. If not playing with teams, students will move the climber up ten elevations.)
    1. Who divided the lands for the tribes? [Joshua, Eleazar, and the leaders.]
    2. Who wanted his inheritance to be a certain mountain? [Caleb.]
    3. What was the challenge involved with Caleb's inheritance? [There were giants (Anakim) there.]
    4. How old was Caleb (and probably Joshua)? [Eighty-five.]
    5. How healthy was Caleb? [He was as strong as he had been forty-five years earlier.]
    6. How many giants did Caleb destroy? [Three.]
    7. In what new town was the tabernacle set up? [Shiloh.]
    8. How many tribes still did not have their inheritance? [Seven.]
    9. How was the problem of land for the seven tribes solved? [Twenty-one men surveyed the land and wrote down the description. Joshua, Eleazar, and the leaders assigned the land by lot.]
    11. Trick question: Why did Zelophehad's daughters, not his sons, get territory in the Promised Land? [Zelophehad had no sons.]

#### **Memory Verse[s]:**

- Joshua 1:6, 7: Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go.
- Or Joshua 1:5, 7–9; 24:14, 15, 20, 24–26 (KJV), learning one section at a time throughout lessons on the books of Joshua, Judges, and Ruth and using the song, “Keeping Covenant,” found on the “Songs” page at [teachingthebibleto kids.org](http://teachingthebibleto kids.org).

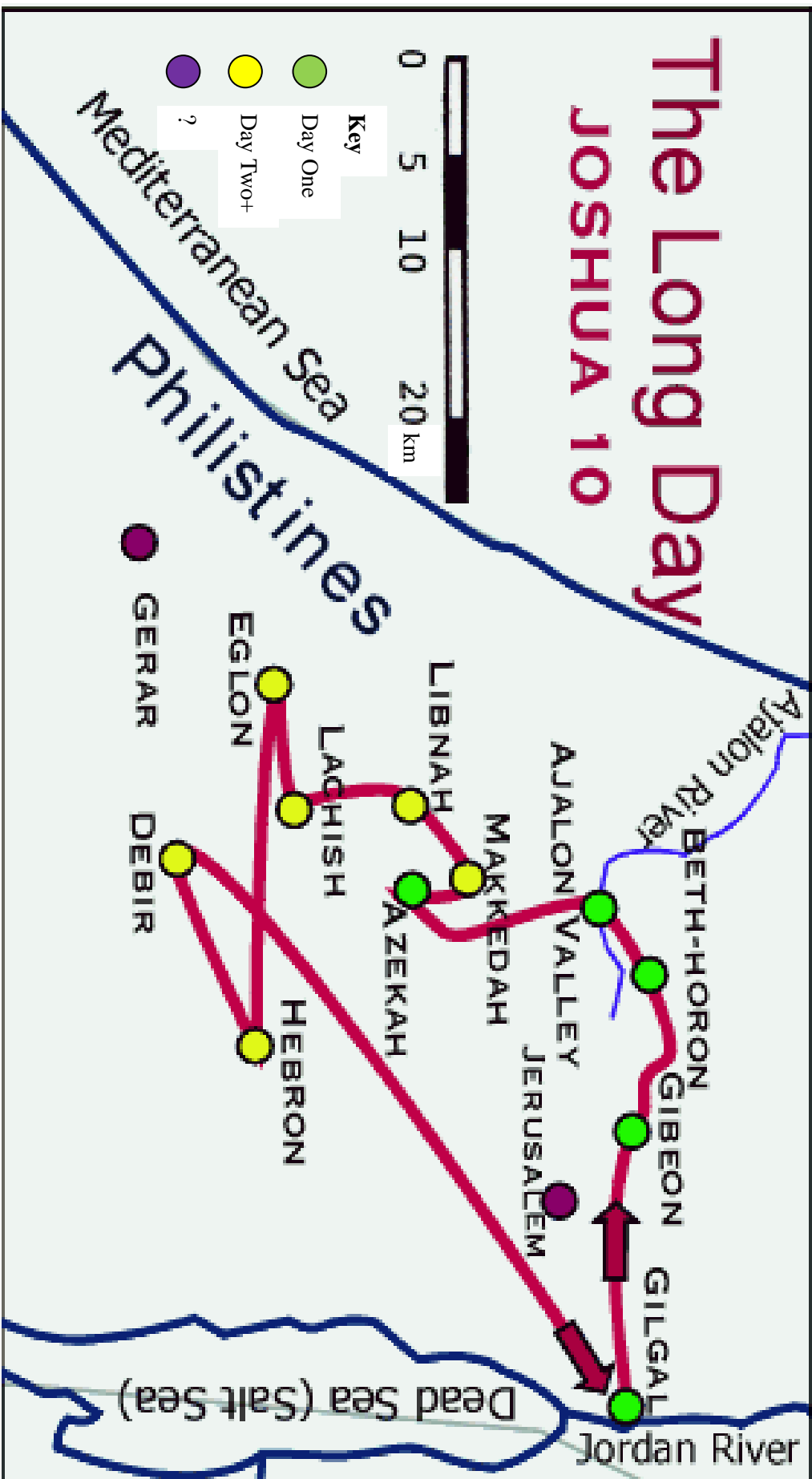
#### **Handwork:**

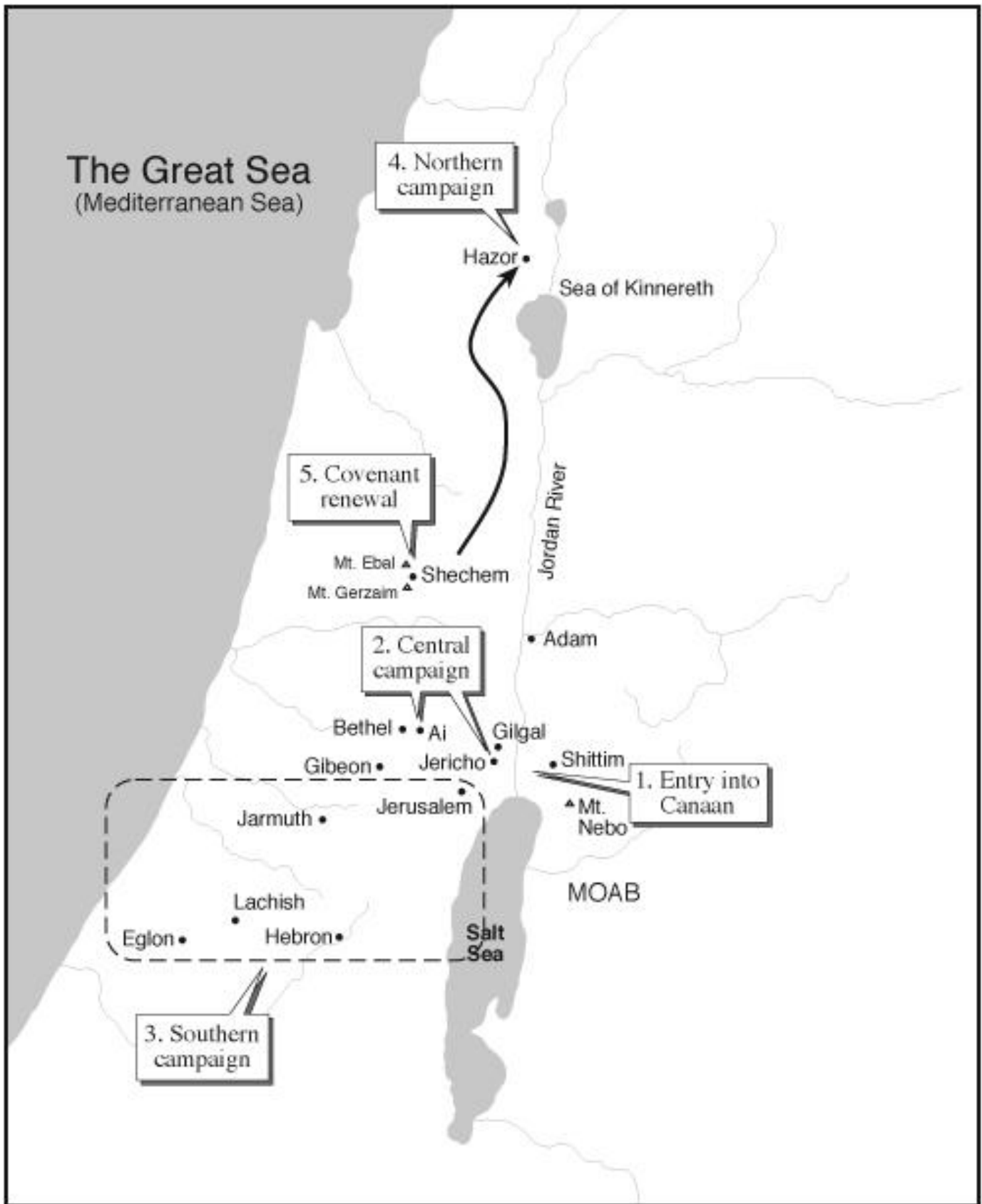
- (Choose from among the three lessons.)

# THE SOUTHERN CAMPAIGN

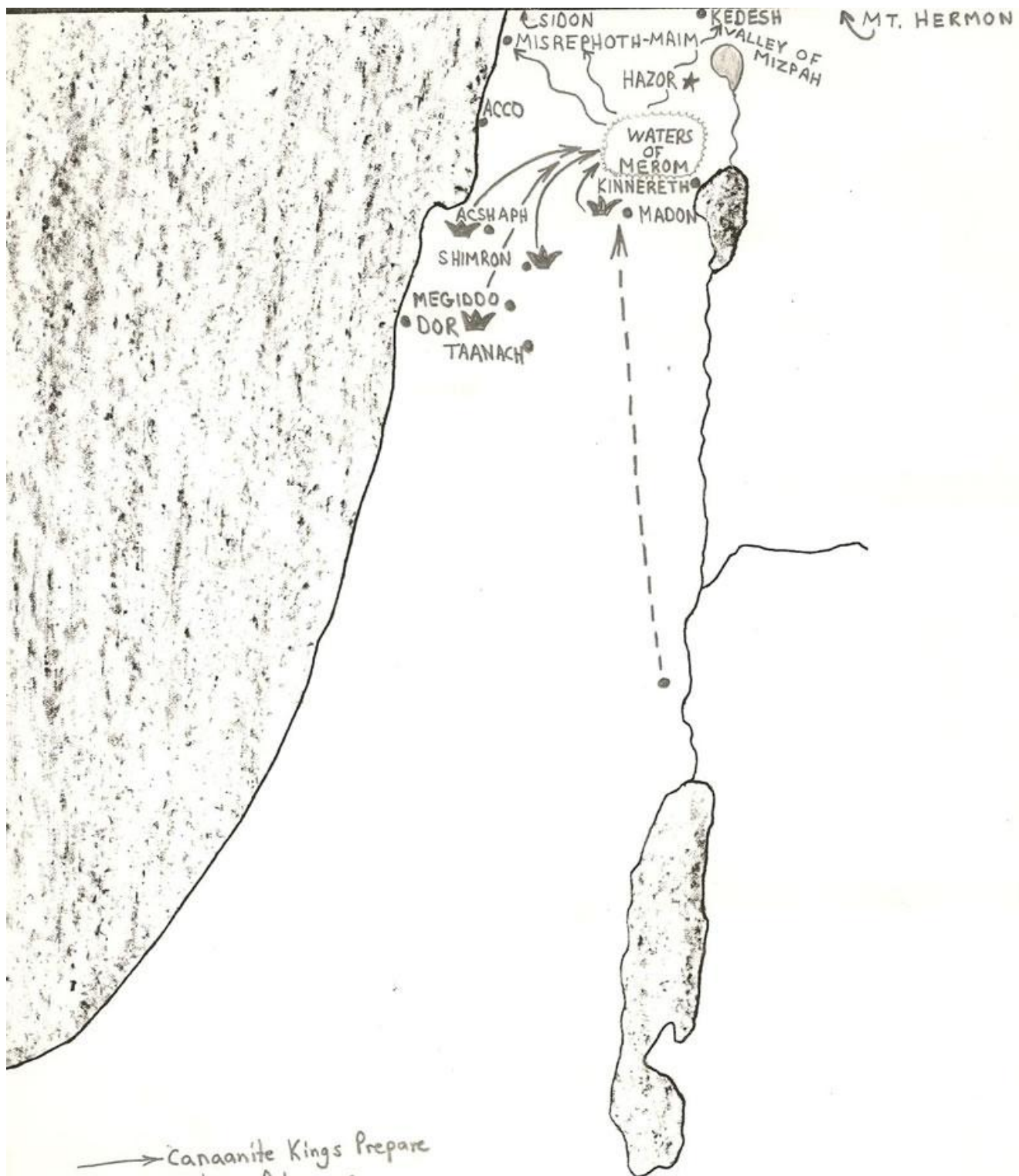
## The Long Day

### JOSHUA 10









- Canaanite Kings Prepare
- - - → Joshua Advances
- ~ ~ ~ → Canaanites Flee
- ☞ = King

"JOSHUA'S NORTHERN CAMPAIGN"  
 (Js. 11:1-15)





Map 4

<https://www.bible-history.com/maps/4-israel-natural-features.html>

